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## Broken Bow Library Included in Library Innovation Studios Makerspace Partnership

BY Emily Barnett | October 18, 2017

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LINCOLN—Last Friday, October 13th, Governor Pete Ricketts announced that 18 Nebraska libraries will be the initial local participants in Nebraska’s Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities project to create library makerspaces.

The [Nebraska Library Commission](#) was recently awarded a National Leadership Grant of \$530,732 by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS)

for this partnership project with the [University of Nebraska Lincoln](#) (UNL), [Nebraska Innovation Studio](#), [Nebraska Extension](#), [Regional Library Systems](#), and local public libraries.

“This partnership demonstrates how our Nebraska communities can use technology and education to empower community residents to create, learn, and invent,” said Governor Ricketts. “By expanding the skills of the workforce in our communities, supporting entrepreneurs, and encouraging lifelong learning, this partnership reinforces our vibrant business climate and supports community development.”

The project uses [Library Innovation Studios makerspaces](#) hosted by public libraries to support community engagement and participatory learning experiences by providing access to technology and innovative learning tools not readily accessible locally. This is expected to stimulate creativity, innovation, and the exchange of ideas to facilitate entrepreneurship, skills development, and local economic development.

Among the initial public library partners that will host one of the four rotating makerspaces is the [Broken Bow Public Library](#). The [Broken Bow Library](#) will tentatively host the Library Innovation Studios makerspace in 2018 for twenty weeks starting mid-April.

“Nebraska’s public libraries are the natural gathering points for people to come together to share materials, knowledge, and experiences,” said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. “Whether the materials and tools are high tech or low tech, digital or analog, art or science, the focus is to create, invent, tinker, explore, and discover using the tools, materials, and knowledge available. Libraries have always been dedicated to community partnership, collaboration, and the free exchange of ideas—makerspaces are the next step in that progression.”



*Broken Bow Public Library currently undergoing renovation and expansion project*

“UNL and Nebraska Innovation Studio are extremely excited to be partnering with the Nebraska Library Commission and libraries across the State of Nebraska to help bring hands-on learning experiences to Nebraskans of all ages,” said UNL Nebraska Innovation Studio Founder Shane Farritor. “I think it is very important to provide the opportunity to be creative and this partnership is going to create new opportunities.”

For more information about the project or equipment that will be featured in the rotating makerspaces, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/InnovationStudios>.